

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, data including both processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and ~~validity~~ information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are attached together;

making a request to determine whether the received electronic money data is valid or not; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the processing data to be information-processed.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving, through a network, both a) data to be information-processed and b) electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said

processing data and ~~validity~~ information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data are attached together;

relating the received data to be information-processed with the electronic money data by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request to determine whether the received electronic money data is valid or not; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, performing the processing of the data to be information-processed which is related to the validated electronic money data.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic payment method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed attached together with electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and ~~validity~~ information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid;

associating the data to be information-processed with the electronic money data by which payment for information processing is made;

making a request to determine whether the received electronic money data is valid or not; and

when the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, starting the processing of the data which is associated with the validated electronic money data.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for making payment by electronic money comprising:

a user side subsystem including a user's terminal,

an electronic money issuer side subsystem including an electronic money issuing server, and

a processor side subsystem including a data processor that performs a processing based on processing request data from the user,

wherein the user side subsystem, the electronic money issuer side subsystem and the processor side subsystem are connected to one another through a network,

wherein the user side subsystem transmits both the processing request data and electronic money data of the electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money issued by the electronic money issuer side subsystem that is necessary for payment for processing of the processing request data and ~~validity~~ information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are attached together and transmitted to the processor side subsystem,

the processor side subsystem transmits the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer side subsystem,

the electronic money issuer side system determines whether the electronic money data is valid or not, and

the processor side subsystem performs the processing based on the processing request data in accordance with a result of the electronic money data validation and transmits a request for payment for the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic money processor comprising:

a receiving member which receives both a) processing request data transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing requested by the user is executed, and b) electronic money data of an electronic money issuer transmitted from the user through the network and including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for processing said processing request data and issued by an electronic money issuer and ~~validity~~ information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are attached together;

a memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored;

a transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money data is valid or not; and

an execution controller which controls execution of the processing based on the processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data

and stored in the memory in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money data.

6. (Previously Presented) An electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, wherein when the electronic money data is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits warning information that the electronic money data is not confirmed to be valid, to the user who transmitted the electronic money data.

7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money processor as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

an image forming portion in which execution of the processing is based on the control of the processing request data by the execution control means of the electronic money processor.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a receiving member which receives both a) print data transmitted from a user through a network, and b) electronic money data of an electronic money issuer corresponding to the print data transmitted from the user through the network and including an amount of electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer that is necessary for payment for processing said print data and validity information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the print data and electronic money data are attached together;

a transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money data is valid or not; and

an image forming portion which processes the print data in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money data.

9. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the processing data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

10. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to claim 2, wherein the data to be information-processed and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

11. (Previously Presented) An electronic payment method according to claim 3, wherein the data to be information-processed and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

12. (Previously Presented) A system for making payment according to claim 4, wherein the processing request data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

13. (Previously Presented) An electronic money processor according to claim 5, wherein the processing request data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

14. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print data and electronic money data are attached together in a data packet including header information and print control command.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
receiving, through a network, job data including processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and ~~validity~~ information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid;
separating the processing data and the electronic money data;
making a request to determine whether the electronic money data is valid; and
when if the received electronic money data is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the processing data to be information-processed.

16. (New) The electronic payment method according to claim 3, comprising:

relating the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data by designating a group identifier common to both the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data; and

separating the data to be information-processed and the electronic money data.

17. (New) The system for making payment according to claim 4, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the processing request data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the processing request data and the electronic money data.

18. (New) The electronic money processor according to claim 5, wherein the processing request data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the processing request data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the processing request data and the electronic money data.

19. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the print data and the electronic money data are designated by a group identifier common to both the print data and the electronic money data to allow separate processing of the print data and the electronic money data.

20. (New) The information processing method according to claim 15, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are related by a group identifier common to both the processing data and the electronic money data.